

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 265

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2007

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. STARK, and Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day.

Whereas globally, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (“UNAIDS”) estimates that since the identification of AIDS in 1981, about 65,000,000 people have been infected with HIV, and more than 25,000,000 people have died of AIDS;

Whereas UNAIDS estimated that at the end of 2007, the AIDS pandemic had killed 2,100,000 people while 33,200,000 people were living with HIV worldwide and of whom 2,500,000 people were newly infected;

Whereas UNAIDS estimates that in 2007, 330,000 children under the age of 15 died from AIDS, while 2,500,000 children were living with HIV, 90 percent of whom reside in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas UNAIDS estimates that each day 1,800 children under the age of 15 become newly infected with HIV and only 8 percent of pregnant women worldwide receive services to prevent HIV transmission to their newborns;

Whereas globally, women are facing rising incidence rates, accounting for 15,400,000 infections and half of the adult population living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas developing countries continue to bear the brunt of the AIDS pandemic with Sub-Saharan Africa serving as the home of 68 percent of all adults and children living with HIV, 60 percent are women and girls;

Whereas in the United States, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) estimates that over one million people are living with HIV/AIDS, of whom 25 percent do not know they are infected;

Whereas despite the fact that African-Americans comprise approximately 13 percent of the American population, the CDC estimates that in 2005 they accounted for 44 percent of all persons living with AIDS and 49 percent of the estimated 37,331 new HIV/AIDS diagnosis;

Whereas the CDC estimates that in 2005 women represented 26 percent of all new HIV/AIDS infections with African-American women 25 times more likely to be infected than white women and accounting for 64 percent of all women living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas according to the CDC, in 2005, 4,883 people age 13–24 were newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, with Afri-

can-Americans disproportionately affected and accounting for 55 percent of all HIV infections reported among young persons;

Whereas in order to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, in 2006 the Ryan White CARE Act was reauthorized as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, making Federal funds available to United States metropolitan areas, States, and service providers to assist affected families and persons living with HIV/AIDS with healthcare and support services;

Whereas to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998, Congress and the Clinton administration created the Minority AIDS Initiative to provide funds to State and local institutions and organization to best serve the healthcare costs and support needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2000, Congress passed the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act, providing the first contribution and the founding framework for what became the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which provides grants to developing countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas since the Global Fund was created in 2002 donors have pledged more than \$10,000,000,000 in funding, of which \$3,000,000,000 has been donated by the United States;

Whereas as of mid-2007, the Global Fund has supported treatment to over 1,100,000 people for HIV/AIDS, directly observed treatment (“DOTS”) to 2,800,000 people

for tuberculosis, and over 30,000,000 insecticide treated bednets to fight malaria;

Whereas in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress authorized the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief ("PEPFAR") to authorize \$15,000,000,000 over 5 years to combat the global AIDS epidemic in 15 focus countries, the largest public health initiative in history launched by a single country to fight a single disease;

Whereas, between fiscal years 2004 and 2008, PEPFAR programs aim to support care for 10,000,000 HIV-affected people, including children orphaned by AIDS; support the prevention of 7,000,000 new HIV infections; and help 2,000,000 people receive antiretroviral treatment;

Whereas, between fiscal years 2004 and 2007, Congress provided nearly \$13,500,000,000 for U.S. global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs;

Whereas of March 31, 2007, PEPFAR has supported the treatment of 1,100,000 people and as of September 2006, has supported the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission during more than 6,000,000 pregnancies and has facilitated care for nearly 4,500,000 people, including more than 2,000,000 orphans and vulnerable children;

Whereas, in 2001, representatives and heads of state of 189 countries, including the United States, convened at the first-ever Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and unanimously adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the UN Declaration of Commitment outlines prevention, treatment, and funding methods for achieving the

Millennium Development Goal of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

Whereas, in 2006, the United Nations General Assembly convened a High Level Meeting on AIDS, pledging to move toward the goal of universal access of comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care, and support by 2010;

Whereas the concept of World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention and was established to focus attention on the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and

Whereas December 1, is now recognized as World AIDS Day and has been taken up by governments, international organizations, and charities around the world: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3           (1) supports the goals and ideals of World  
4       AIDS Day and recognizes the twentieth anniversary  
5       of observing this day;

6           (2) commends the President, State and local  
7       governments, including their public health agencies,  
8       for recognizing this day, for publicizing its importance  
9       among their communities, and for encouraging  
10       individuals to undergo testing for HIV;

11          (3) supports continued funding for prevention,  
12       care, treatment services, and research programs for  
13       persons living with HIV/AIDS in the United States  
14       including through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treat-

1        ment Modernization Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS  
2        Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control, the Na-  
3        tional Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and  
4        Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of  
5        Minority Health, and the Office of the Secretary of  
6        Health and Human Services;

7            (4) supports continued funding for the Presi-  
8        dent's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, and the  
9        Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Ma-  
10      laria to provide prevention, care, and treatment to  
11      combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries;

12           (5) supports the goal of providing universal ac-  
13      cess to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care,  
14      and support programs by 2010; and

15           (6) supports efforts to address the factors that  
16      make populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS by de-  
17      creasing poverty, hunger, childhood mortality, and  
18      by empowering women.

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